it would save trouble to the ryots and some money to the Government in the shape of salaries to the officers of the Forest Department. He, therefore, prayed that either the administrative control over the Cardamom area be vested in the Revenue Department alone or that the collection of revenue be also entrusted to the officers of the Forest Department and the Revenue Department divested of all control. He also prayed for a rule being laid down that all charges framed by the subordinates of the Forest Department below the rank of a Ranger should be referred, in the first instance, to a Revenue Officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar before they were committed to the Criminal Courts.

The Member next stated that Anchanad, situated on the frontier of the State, was 31 miles from Devicolam and 26 miles from Munnar. There was no Police Station at Anchanad and the police jurisdiction over the area was divided between the police stations at Devicolam and Munnar. Udumbanshola also shared the same fate. He, therefore, prayed that a police charging station might be established at both Marayur and Udumbanshola. The Member also stated that much difficulty was experienced for want of a Magistrate's Court at Anchanad and that parties in criminal cases had to walk long distances for conducting their cases. He prayed that an Assistant Tahsildar with Third Class Magisterial powers be appointed at Marayur.

He also presented a memorial signed by the Cardamom ryots containing the following prayers, viz.,

(1) that they be allowed to appropriate for their own use decayed trees found in their gardens, without the permission of the Forest Department;

(2) that they be allowed to graze cattle on the hills without license;

(3) that they be permitted to keep arms without license; and

(4) that the lands which had been occupied without permission and on which buildings had been put up by Cardamom ryots be surveyed in the names of the respective occupants and pattas issued to them.

Dewan's reply.—You say that the control of the Forest Department over the Cardamom Hill reserve should be withdrawn, and that the area should be placed under the Revenue Department. The proposal is being brought up year after year, but it is not an acceptable one. The reserve is a very big one with an area of about 340 square miles. The Revenue Department is not conversant with the technique of forest administration and hence the control and supervision of the Forest Department over this important reserve cannot be taken away. There are good forests within the reserve. It may be that the area other than forests such as the estates could be transferred to the Revenue Department for administration. Such a sort of dual control exists on the plains. What you really want is a good road from Devicolam to Peermade. That will open up the area and give you very good facilities. We are building that road as rapidly as funds would permit and after that is done you will find your present request unnecessary, as your difficulties will disappear.

Member.—The Forest Department charges the people for felling trees within the estates. Forest guards insist on licenses for the grazing of cattle.

Dewan.—How can they demand a fee for cattle-grazing in your estates? If the cattle trespass on the reserve, they will, no doubt, do that.

Member.—They say that the whole area is forest.

Dewan.—That is a different matter. If you put in a complaint, it will be enquired into.

51. Financial help towards the maintenance of the Rubber Mycologist's Station at Mundakayam.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) said at the outset that he had no hesitation in bringing the subject before the Government

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as the object his association had in view was to aid the Travancore Rubber planter as well as the European. In the rubber-planting industry which had suffered greatly through a fall in the price of that commodity, one of the difficulties the planters had to face was to contend against the diseases of the plant, in the matter of both prevention and cure. The rubber tree was peculiarly subject to many fungoid diseases which it was the province of the Mycologist to explore and to suggest remedies for. It was hardly to be expected that Government would provide all the funds necessary for the upkeep of a Mycologist and his station and so he hoped that Government would help the planters by giving them a substantial contribution. In the past they had been maintaining the station, but owing to the fall in the price of rubber, which fall had affected Travancorean planters as well, they experienced the greatest difficulty in maintaining the station. The total expenditure incurred by them on account of the station was from 28,000 to 30,000 rupees per annum and this amount was realised by means of subscriptions from the European Planters of South India. There was no Indian subscriber to the maintenance of the station and the European planters could not ask the former to subscribe, since many of them held only small areas of rubber lands and most of them were too poor to subscribe even a small sum. The work of the Mycologist was calculated to aid the Indian planter as much as his European brother, if the results were published in the vernacular, and that was one of the grounds on which he ventured to introduce the subject at the Assembly.

Another ground on which the Member based his request was that, of the 75,000 or 80,000 acres of rubber land in Southern India, nearly 51,000 acres or 63 per cent of the total area lay in Travancore and the State could, therefore, claim to be the premier State in the production of rubber in India and as such it would not be out of place to ask the Travancore Government to subscribe about Rs. 14,000 or 15,000 per annum out of the total expenditure of Rs. 30,000 which the Planters were incurring for the purpose. He was aware that the Travancore Government was paying an annual contribution towards the Scientific Department maintained by the Government of Madras, but that no portion of that contribution went to the Rubber Mycologist's Station at Mundakayam which was entirely kept up by private subscriptions.

The Member next suggested the following practical ways by which the Mycologist's Station could be rendered useful to the Indian planter.

(1) The Mycologist could be asked to give a lecture in Malayalam on the fungoid diseases of rubber under the auspices of the Public Lecture Committee during the Assembly week. The lecture could be published in Malayalam and copies of the same sent to the Planters who did not know English.

(2) The publications of the Mycological Station could be sent to the Agricultural Department which, after translation, could distribute them for the information of the planters.

(3) When the Mycologist went on tour, the chief Indian planters could expect a visit to their plantations and they could take his advice as to the eradication and control of the diseases.

(4) If the Government decided to contribute, *bona fide* Travancorean Rubber Planters would be given facilities in visiting the Mycologist's laboratory at Mundakayam and in seeing the work carried on there, and they could give specimens of diseased plants for identification and advice.

Mr. Vincent concluded by saying that, with the efficient control of the disease, the rubber crop could be increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent which would mean all the difference between aloss and a profit. He, therefore, thought that any expenditure on the Mycologist's Station would be in the nature of a sound investment, because it was for helping an industry established in the country and from which the Government were deriving revenue.

Dewan.—There is one point on which I wish to have information. How much of these 51,000 acres is owned by Indian planters and how much by the European planters?

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Member.—About 20,000 to 30,000 acres are in the hands of Europeans and about 21,000 to 23,000 in the hands of Indians.

Dewan's reply.—I was under the impression that the Mycologist's Station at Mundakayam had not yet been established, but I see from what you now say that the station is actually working. I should very much like to see it. I know that, although this Darbar and other Darbars like Mysore and Cochin are contributing to the maintenance of a Scientific Department under the Madras Government for the benefit of planters all over the country, rubber is not one of the things included within the operations of that Department. The Madras Government wished to include rubber and extend the usefulness of the Department, but owing to the intervention of the war and other circumstances and the impossibility of securing an expert, they have had to postpone their project, and the contributions of the Darbars have been correspondingly reduced temporarily. Seeing that you have a station actually working, and that the research work that is done there is not merely for the benefit of the members of your Association, but will benefit the Indian planters also, I shall examine the matter from that point of view, and I shall take the earliest opportunity to see the station actually at work.

(2) Other Industries.

52. Development of Industries.

Mr. K. Hussain Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the material prosperity of a country depended entirely on the advancement of its agriculture and industries. By depending largely on foreigners for their articles of daily use, the people had given up all their ancient callings and had consequently lost considerably in their wealth. About 63 crores of rupees worth of clothing was being annually imported into India and Travancore alone was consuming nearly a crore. The Member suggested that one-half of the budgetted expenditure under education should be devoted to the development of industries. He proposed the following measures for the advancement of industries and for making the people self-supporting and independent in the matter of their ordinary requirements:—

1. Industrial schools should be established for imparting technical education in the vernaculars.

2. Model industrial institutions should be started in some important centres.

3. A central Depôt should be opened for the collection and sale of raw products to the public at low prices and also for the import and sale of foreign goods such as machinery, etc., useful for industrial purposes.

4. A central technological institute should be established.

5. It was not sufficient if scholars were sent to foreign countries for being trained in various branches of industries. Experts from Japan and other countries should be brought down to give practical training to young men here.

6. Means of communication should be improved in all parts of the country.

Dewan's reply.—There is no difference between you and the Government in the matter of the policy of development of industries. But Government are not able to proceed as fast as you would wish, for want of money and other facilities. All the suggestions made require money to carry out. As time goes on, however, we shall be able to advance steadily. You yourself admit that Government have realised the importance of industries. I do not agree with you in the view that the expenditure on general education is too much, and that one-half of the budgetted amount of 32 lakhs should be devoted to industrial education. There should be provision for general education in the first instance, and industrial education can only come next.

As for scholarships, they obtain even now. You are not perhaps in favour of the deputation of men to foreign countries for technical and industrial education. We may get down experts, but our men should also be sent abroad for industrial education. In the matter of communications, Government are doing all that is possible.

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